Epiſtle.

vayne; the thinges though vvorthy of many, yet being knowen to few. Theſe my preſent paynes if to any they be pleaſurable or profitable, be you iudge, mine ovvn good Maiſter Harvey, to vvhom I haue both in reſpect of your vvorthineſſe generally, and othervvyſe vpon ſome particular & ſpecial conſiderations voued this my labour, and the maydenhead of this our commen frends Poetrie, himſelfe hauing already in the beginning dedicated it to the Noble and vvorthy Gentleman, the right worſhipfull Ma. Phi. Sidney, a ſpecial fauourer & maintainer of all kind of learning.) VVhoſe cauſe I pray you Sir, if Enuie ſhall ſtur vp any wrongful accuſation, defend vvith your mighty Rhetorick & other your rare gifts of learning, as you can, & thield with your good vvil, as you ought, againſt the malice and outrage of ſo many enemies, as I knovv vvilbe ſet on fire with the ſparkes of his kindled glory. And thus recõmending the Author vnto you, as vnto his moſt ſpecial good frend, and my ſelfe vnto you both, as one making ſinguler account of two ſo very good and ſo choiſe frends, I bid you both moſt hartely farvvel, and commit you & your moſt commendable ſtudies to the tuicion of the greateſt.

Your owne aſſuredly to be commaunded E. K.

Poſt ſcr

NOvv I truſt M. Harvey, that vpon ſight of your ſpeciall frends and fellow Poets doings, or els for enuie of ſo many vnworthy Quidams, vvhich catch at the garland, vvhich to you alone is devve, you vvill be perſvvaded to pluck out of the hateful darkneſſe, thoſe ſo many excellent Engliſh poemes of yours, vvhich lye hid, and bring them forth to eternall light. Truſt me you doe both them great wrong, in depriuing them of the deſired ſonne, and alſo your ſelfe, in ſmoothering your deſerued prayſes, and all men generally, in withholding from them ſo diuine pleaſures, which they might conceiue of your gallant Engliſh verſes, as they haue already doen of your Latine Poemes, which in my opinion both for inuention and Elocution are very delicate, and ſuperexcellent. And thus againe, I take my leaue of my good Mayſter Harvey. from my lodging at London thys 10. of Aprill. 1579.

The generall a

the whole

LIttle I hope, needeth me at large
gues, hauing alreadie touched t
knovv is vnknowen to moſt, an
(as they think) I vvyll ſay ſome
to my preſent purpoſe.

They vvere firſt of the Gree
gaj as it vvere αἶγες or αἰγόβοτοι. Νόμοι. that is G
and others the ſpeakers be moſt ſhepheards, and
more ground of authoritie, then in Virgile, thi
firſt head and vvelſpring the vvhole Inuention
perſons and authors of his tales. This being, v
colour of learning would make vs beleeue that
they vvould ſay, extraordinary diſcourſes of vnr
ſubſtaunce and meaning it agree with the natu
the ἐτυμον and interpretation of the word. Fo
logues, vvhich ſentence this authour very vvell
nedeede ſevv Gotcheards haue to doe herein,
vſed and beſt knovven name. Other curious d
ſion. Theſe xij. Æclogues euery where anſwer
may be vvell deuided into three formes or ran
firſt, the ſixt, the eleuenth, & the twelfth, or recre
matter of loue, or commendation of ſpecial p
part be mixed with ſome Satyrical bitterneſſe,
old age, the fift of coloured deceipt, the ſeuenth
tours, the tenth of contempt of Poetrie & plea
ry thing herein be reaſonably applyed: A few
meaning I am not priuie to. And thus much ge
vve ſpeake particularly of all, and firſt of the fir
name Ianuarie: wherein to ſome he may ſeem
ouſly beginneth with that moneth, vvhich beg
and ſtoutely mainteyned vvith ſtronge reaſon
in March. for then the ſonne renevveth his fini
ſheth the earth, and the pleſaunce thereof bein
novv vvorne avvay, reliueth. This opinion may
phers, namely the reuerend Andalo, and Mac
accounpt alſo vvas generally obſerued both
leaue of ſuch learned heads, vve mayntaine a c
moneth Ianuary, vpon a more ſpeciall cauſe, t
conceiue, that is, for the incarnation of our mi
Chriſt, vvho as then renevving the ſtate of the
of expired yeres to theyr former date and firſt
mortall of his birth in the ende of the laſt yeer
ning, beſide that eternall monument of our ſal